

Message Text

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SUBJECT :MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 1977 : A POTPOURRI OF LATEST
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LYON CONSULAR DISTRICT

REF :LYON 8, 24 AND 28

BEGIN SUMMARY : A REVIEW OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN MUNICIPAL
ELECTION CAMPAIGNS BEING WAGED IN KEY CITIES OF THE LYON
CONSULAR DISTRICT REVEALS NUMEROUS INSTANCES OF POTENTIALLY
EXPLOSIVE DISCORD BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS ON ONE
SIDE AND VARYING DEGREES OF DISHARMONY AMONG THE
MAJORITY PARTIES ON THE OTHER. TYPICAL IS THE
SITUATION IN DIJON WHERE A CAREFULLY NEGOTIATED PACT
AMONG THE PARTNIERS OF THE LEFT MAY COME TO RUPTURE
BECAUSE OF A COMMUNIST ULTIMATUM TO THE SOCIALISTS TO
GIVE IN ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY.

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LYON METROPOLITAN AREA

IN LYON, A SPLIT HAS DEVELOPED IN THE RANKS OF THE PRESENT
GROUP IN POWER, AS JACQUES SOUSTELLE ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION
OF THE RASSEMBLEMENT POUR LYON (RPL). HE HAS KEPT UP A
CONSTANT BARRAGE OF ATTACKS ON LYON'S PRESENT MAYOR,
FRANCISQUE COLLOMB, ACCUSING HIM OF PRETENDING TO SUCCEED
TO THE NON-ALIGNED POSITION OF FORMER MAYOR LOUIS PRADEL.
WHILE MAINTAINING HIS TIES WITH PARIS AND ACCEPTING MILITANT
SOCIALISTS INTO THE PRADEL GROUPING.

THIS HEATED RETORIC HAS ALREADY COST SOUSTELLE HIS SEAT AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE RHONE-ALPS REGIONAL COUNCIL. AT THE LAST MEETING HE WAS OUSTED BY LOYAL SUPPORTERS OF MR. COLLOMB. ALSO, A RECENT SURVEY TAKEN BY THE PROGRES, LYON'S LEADING DAILY PAPER, SHOWED COLLOMB WITH A COMFORTABLE LEAD OVER BOTH OF HIS PROJECTED ADVERSAIRES, SOUSTELLE AND THE UNION OF THE LEFT'S CANDIDATE CLAUDE BERNARDIN. IN A QUESTION CONCERNING THE FIRST ROUND OF THE ELECTION, COLLOMB WAS PREFERRED BY 60 PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED, BERNARDIN BY 31 PERCENT AND SOUSTELLE BY ONLY 9 PERCENT.

IN VILLEURBANNE, THE LYON METROPOLITAN AREA'S SECOND LARGEST CITY, THE SPLIT IN THE RANKS OF THE LEFT SEEMS TO BE WIDENING. CHARLES HERNU, THE SOCIALIST CHOICE TO HEAD THE LEFT'S LIST, UNILATERALLY PRESENTED HIS COMMON LIST LAST WEEK. THIS LIST INCLUDED 19 SEATS RESERVED FOR THE COMMUNISTS WHO ARE DEMANDING AT LEAST 21 SEATS WITH RENE DESGRAND AT THE HEAD OF THE LIST. DESGRAND IS EXPECTED TO MAKE HIS LIST KNOWN SOMETIME THIS WEEK, BUT A SECOND POLL TAKEN BY THE PROGRES HAS NOT HELPED THE COMMUNIST CAUSE. THIS POLL INDICATED THAT NO ONE COULD ACHIEVE A MAJORITY IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE ELECTION, BUT IT ALSO REVEALED THAT IF GAGNAIRE, VILLEURBANNE'S UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENT MAYOR, WERE PITTED AGAINST THE COMMUNIST CANDIDATE ON THE SECOND ROUND, THE MAYOR WOULD WIN WITH 59 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. IF HOWEVER, GAGNAIRE WERE TO RUN AGAINST HERNU ON THE SECOND ROUND THEN THE SOCIALIST WOULD BE PREFERRED BY 52 PERCENT.

MEANWHILE THE RIGHT IN VILLEURBANNE HEADED BY MAYOR GAGNAIRE SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO REJUVENATE ITSELF. THE NEW LIST WHICH THE MAYOR WILL TAKE INTO THE CAMPAIGN WAS PUBLISHED LAST WEEK AND CONTAINED 18 NEW CANDIDATES. THIS LIST RESERVES 12 SEATS FOR THE RPR, 8 FOR THE RADICALS, 6 FOR THE GDS, 4 FOR THE CNI, 2 FOR THE RI AND 4 FOR IMPORTANT NON-ALIGNED FIGURES IN VILLEURBANNE.

CLERMONT-FERRAND

AFTER LONG AND HARD BARGAINING, AGREEMENT WAS

REACHED IN MID JANUARY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON LIST OF THE LEFT IN CLERMONT-FERRAND, TO BE HEADED BY CURRENT MAYOR AND SENATOR ROGER QUILLIOT. OF THE 43 SEATS ON THE BALLOT THE P. S. WILL HAVE 22, THE P.C. 11, THE M.R.G. 5 AND THE REMAINING 5 PLACES WILL BE FILLED BY REPRESENTATIVE PERSONALITIES OF THE CITY. THE AGREEMENT ALSO STIPULATED THAT BOTH MAYOR AND THE 1ST DEPUTY MAYOR WILL BELONG TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY. THE CITY OF CLERMONT-

FERRAND HAS CONSISTENTLY HAD A SOCIALIST MAYOR SINCE 1944. THE NEW R.P.R. HAS BEEN MORE AND MORE ACTIVE IN TRYING TO ORGANIZE VIABLE OPPOSITION.

DIJON

IN DIJON THE SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS AND LEFT RADICALS
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LAST WEEK WERE TO HAVE JOINTLY ANNOUNCED THEIR COMMON LIST OF CANDIDATES TO OPPOSE INCUMBENT MAYOR (AND FORMER MINISTER) ROBERT POUJADE. HOWEVER AT THE LAST MOMENT THE CEREMONY WAS POSTPONED, APPARENTLY NOT BECAUSE OF SOME LATE DISAGREEMENT AT DIJON, BUT RATHER BECAUSE SIMILAR ACCORDS HAD NOT BEEN REACHED ELSEWHERE. IN EFFECT MR. THEROUSE SURROUNDED BY LOCAL P.C. LEADERS GAVE AN ULTIMATUM TO PIERRE PALAU, 1ST SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN THE COTE D'OR, AND HEAD OF THE COMMON PROGRAM LIST FOR DIJON. SIMPLY STATED THE ULTIMATUM SAYS: EITHER THE COMMON LEFT LIST PROBLEMS ARE SETTLED IN ALL THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE COTE D'OR DEPARTMENT, OR WE WILL RUPTURE IN DIJON. AT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM ARE SUCH COMMUNITIES AS MONTBARD WHERE THE SOCIALISTS, DISSATISFIED WITH COMMUNISTS PROPOSALS, HAVE DECIDED TO CONSTITUTE THEIR OWN LIST. IN MARSANNAY ALSO THE SOCIALISTS ARE GOING IT ALONE WHILE IN LAUMES THE MOVEMENT OF LEFT RADICALS HAS COME UPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP WITH A LIST OF ITS OWN.

AS FAR AS THE MAJORITY IS CONCERNED, IT IS LIKELY THAT MAYOR POUJADE WILL NOT ANNOUNCE HIS FINAL LIST UNTIL VERY LATE IN THE CAMPAIGN. APPARENTLY ON THIS LIST OF 43 CANDIDATES THERE WILL BE ONLY SOME 20 CARRY-OVERS FROM THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. OBVIOUSLY THE QUESTION OF REPLACEMENT OF THE OUTGOING INDIVIDUALS IS MOST SENSITIVE AND SUBJECT TO DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE MAJORITY PARTIES. FOR INSTANCE THE R.P.R. CLAIMS THAT THE R.I. HARDLY EXISTS ANYMORE AT DIJON AND THEREFORE WOULD BE ENTITLED TO NO MORE THAN 5 CANDIDATES ON THE LIST.

A THIRD LIST FOR DIJON IS IN PREPARATION BY PIERRE HAZARD, WHO HAS BEEN A CANDIDATE IN THE CANTONAL ELECTIONS OF 1973 AND 1976. THIS LIST, TO BE PRESENTED UNDER THE NAME UNION FOR A SOCIAL DEMOCRACY WISHES TO ATTRACT THE VOTES OF THOSE CENTRISTS WHO DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE PRESENT PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY BUT WHO ALSO CANNOT ACCEPT THE
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COMMON PROGRAM OF THE LEFT.

GRENOBLE

AFTER MONTHS OF INTENSE NEGOTIATION AGREEMENT WAS FINALLY REACHED BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS IN GRENOBLE TO CONSTITUTE A COMMON LIST OF CANDIDATES. THE LIST, HEADED BY INCUMBENT MAYOR HUBERT DUBEDOUT, WILL COMPRISE 22 SOCIALISTS, 17 COMMUNISTS, AND 3 CANDIDATES REPRESENTING THE M.R.G., RADICAL LEFT MOVEMENT.

ON THE MAJORITY SIDE, THE GRENOBLE LIAISON COMMITTEE OF THE MAJORITY PARTIES, INCLUDING THE R.P.R., R.I., THE C.D. S. AND THE RADICAL SOCIALISTS, AGREED THAT JEAN-CHARLES PARIAUD SHOULD HEAD THEIR UNITED BALLOT. DR. PARIAUD IS CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ELECTRO-CHEMISTRY OF THE GRENOBLE POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE. BORN IN LYON JANUARY 23, 1922 PARIAUD OBTAINED HIS CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AND DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES REPECTIVELY IN LYON AND PARIS. IN 1953 HE WAS ASSISTANT-PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND ALSO VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA . FROM 1959 TO 1967 HE WAS PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY

OF CLERMONT-FERRAND AND SUBSEQUENTLY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ABIDJAN. JUST BEFORE HIS PRESENT POSITION DR. PARIAUD WAS COUNSELOR FOR SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN BONN.

A THIRD LIST HAS JUST APPEARED BESIDES THOSE HEADED BY DEBEDOUT AND PARIAUD. JEAN ROUGE, MEMBER OF THE RHONE-ALPS FEDERATION OF RADICAL SOCIALISTS, HAS JUST PRESENTED WHAT HE CALLED A COMMON SENSE LIST. THIS INITIATIVE HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE UNEASINESS IN GRENOBLE'S POLITICAL CIRCLES. MADAME NEBOUT, FORMER NATIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE RADICAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT, HAD PLEDGED HER PARTIES SUPPORT TO DR. PARIAUD. THE LOCAL R.P.R. ALSO REACTED STRONGLY, NOT JUST AGAINST MR. ROUGE BUT ESPECIALLY AGAINST THE LETTERS USE OF THE TERM FACIST IN DESCRIBING CHIRAC'S NEW MOVEMENT.

IN WHAT PROMISES TO BE A CLOSE RACE MAYOR DUBEDOUT FOUND AN UNEXPECTED ALLY IN INTERIOR MINISTER PONATOWSKI, WHOSE DEPARTMENT HAS JUST PUBLISHED A LIST OF FRENCH CITIES WITH POPULATION ABOVE 100,000 WHICH INDICATES THAT OF THESE GRENOBLE IS THE CITY WHERE TAXES HAVE LEAST INCREASED IN THE YEAR 1971-1975.

CORRECTION : PLEASE REREAD, MADAME NEBOUT, FORMER NATIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RADICAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT,

SAINT-ETIENNE

BOTH THE LEFT AND THE MAJORITY SEEM WELL SET FOR THE ELECTIONS. THE MAJORITY WILL FIELD A LIST , AS YET UNPUBLISHED, HEADED BY MICHEL DURAFOUR, NATIONAL MINISTER AND MONT TIME MAYOR OF SAINT ETIENNE. THE LEFT HAS AGREED UPON A COMMON LIST OF 22 COMMUNISTS, 15 SOCIALISTS, 5 RADICAUX DE GAUCHE AND 3 UNIFIED SOCIALISTS TO BE HEADED BY COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER JOSEPH SANGUEDOLCE.

DROME DEPARTMENT

IN THE DROME DEPARTMENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON LIST OF P.C. AND P.S. CANDIDATES IS IN GREAT DIFFICULTY.
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THE SOCIALISTS HAVE FORMERLY REFUSED TO FORM COMMON LIST IN THE FOLLOWING CITIES :MONTELIMAR, BOURG-LES-VALENCE, NYONS, ST VALLIER, BUIS LES BARONNIES, AND LORIOL.

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